

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

-----280126Z 076519 /63

R 270840Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9265

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANTANANARIVO 0988

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, MA

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED FOR MADAGASCAR'S

NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY

REF: ANTANANARIVO 0439

1. LONG-AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS FOR MADAGASCAR'S LEGISLATURE, THE NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY, WAS MADE ON MAY 25. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD JUNE 30 TO FILL 137 SEATS. THESE SEATS APPORTIONED ACCORDING TO POPULATION BY FIVONDRONAMPO-KONTANY (THE FORMER SUB-PREFECTURES) AND FARITANY (THE FORMER PROVINCES). THUS OF THE 137 MEMBERS, 33 WILL BE ELECTED FOR ANTANANARIVO PROVINCE AND 11 OF THESE WILL REPRESENT THE CAPITAL CITY AND ITS SUBURBS. IN COMPARISON, THE SMALLEST PROVINCE, DIEGO-SUAREZ, WILL ONLY HAVE 11 REPRESENTATIVES.

2. ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR THEIR FIVONDRONAMPOKONTANY REPRESENTATIVES, BUT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE FIVE "REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS" IN THE NATIONAL POPULAR FRONT WILL BE ABLE TO STAND FOR ELECTION (SEE PARA 3 REFTTEL).

3. WHILE EACH OF THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE FRONT SHOULD HAVE  
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LESS DIFFICULTY ROUNDING UP STRONG CANDIDATES THAN THE 137 SEATS THAN THEY HAD TRYING TO FIND 70,000 CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE FOKONTANY IN MARCH, THE RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE GREATLY DIFFERENT THAN THOSE OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY. IN THESE LOCAL ELECTIONS, PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S PARTY AREMA HAS TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 90 PER CENT OF THE ELECTED POSITIONS

NATIONWIDE WITH THE AKFM WINNING APPROXIMATELY 7 PER CENT, BUT TAKING A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN ANTANANARIVO CITY, AND ROUGHLY 20 PER CENT OF THE VOTE IN ANTANANARIVO PROVINCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 30 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ARE BY NO MEANS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER MONIMA, WHICH BOYCOTTED THE LAST 3 LOCAL ELECTIONS AFTER ITS DISMAL RESULTS IN MARCH, WILL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A FEW SEATS IN JUNE, AT LEAST IN ITS HOME AREA OF TULEAR. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD THE AKFM DO BETTER THAN THE 7 PER CENT IT REGISTERED IN THE SPRING, THIS MIGHT COMPLICATE THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFORM THE FRONT, OR AREMA ITSELF, INTO A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY.BARRETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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